

V. REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Wetzel (U.S. Patent No. 5,611,145) in view of Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,287,190) and further in view of Demci et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,672,049).

Claim 1 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

As indicated in the Office Action, claims 3-6 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim in any intervening claims. Claims 3 and 9 are amended as independent claims that include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 9 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 4-6 depend from claim 3 and include all of the features of claim 3. Thus, the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 3 is allowable as well as for the features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the

HOK-0245
(85813-0245)

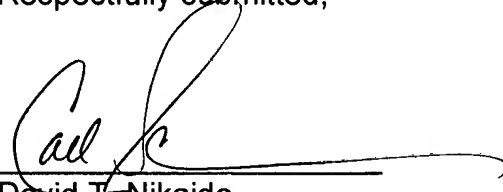
Application No.: 10/508,797

Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 20, 2007

By:


David T. Nikaido
Reg. No. 22,663

Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

DC265456.DOC